



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF 2009



**DOGPAW General Membership Meeting
Water Resources Education Center
Friday, March 06, 2009 at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

6:00 PM: Setup

6:30 PM: Introduction – Kathleen Hansen (3-Min)
State of DOGPAW Address.

6:33 PM: Committee Reports:
Finance – Lisa Erickson (2-Mins)
Park Sites Report – Deanna Judia (3-Min)
Promo-Publicity-Membership – Jean Hood (5-Min)
Fundraising – Mark (2-Min)

6:45 PM: Site Development & Safety –
Mark Heiny – New Parks & Development.
Julie Mills & Megan-Kate Colwell, Trainer -
General Safety & Next DOGPAW Class.

7:15 PM: DOGPAW Q & A

7:30 PM: Parks & Recreation (VCPR) –
Jane Tesner Kleiner, Planning & Development Mgr
Partnering, Project Proposals, & Hockinson Phases.

7:40 PM: Canines for Clean Water –
Cindy Stienbarger, Education & Outreach Coord
Public Works Clean Water Program.

7:50 PM: Humane Society of Southwest Washington –
Lisa Schmidt, for Chuck Tourtillot, Executive Director
Off-Leash, Event Partners, & New Facility.

8:00 PM: Clark County Animal Control –
Bill Burrus, Officer
Documenting Incidents for a Response.

8:10 PM: Vancouver Police Dept K9 Unit –
Sgt Joe Graff & K9 Team
Present The K9 Program & Meet-n-Greet K9.
(Todd Schwartz, Handler, K9 Kenai)

8:20 PM: Guest Q & A

8:30 PM: Meeting Adjourned

- \$50.00 Beastie Boutique Door Prize -

DOGPAW GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Water Resources Education Center

March 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 pm by Pres. Kathleen Hansen.

Board members in attendance: Kathleen Hansen, Lisa Erickson, Deanna Judia, Jean Hood, Mark Heiny, Sandra Pratt, Jerry Quilling.

Approximately 56 general members, Board Members, and guest speakers were present.

Kathleen introduced herself and explained she was conducting the meeting because Pam Goe resigned as President and Kathleen has been designated to fill the position. Although Pam was not present Kathleen recognized Pam's tireless work and dedication to DOGPAW over the years.

State of DOGPAW for past year and future Kathleen mentioned the new park at Brush Prairie, grand opening of Dakota Park and plans for a table at HSSW. She thanked supporters and acknowledged without them there would be no Off Leash Parks.

Committee Reports:

Park Sites – Deanna Judia – Some issues all the parks face: Not paying attention to your dog – know where your dog is at all times, pick up your dog's poop, dogs need to be leashed in parking areas, double gate is the only legal un/leashing area.

Brush Prairie is open and great. Encouraged users to park on the gravel, not in the mud as it drags mud into the gravel, pick up waste, pay attention to your dog, watch for aggressive signals from other dogs. Will be needing volunteers to spread chips, minor fixes, build dog playground.

Dakota thanks to Parks Dept. for a great park.

Ross recently had an excellent work party, spread chips, cleaned up, and fixed the SDA.

Promo-Publicity-Membership – Jean Hood

No water at Prairie or Ross, nor Dakota presently. Problem at Ross with users bringing water – please bring for your dog only and Pack It In Pack It Out. Don't leave plastic jugs, presenting problem for Jeanne, Park Host, to keep clean and she cannot do it anymore.

Membership is up from last year. Renewals have declined, she is not sure why. We are still growing with a potential this year to add 150-200 new members through membership drives. One in each park

should bring to goal of \$200-250 from membership fees at each park event. Reported each event usually brings in \$300-\$500. There will be a Dogtober Fest or a Dogdays event at Ross this year. Members will be voting on which event.

Site Development & Safety

Mark Heiny – New Parks and Development - Mark displayed the pavers he is making as fundraisers explaining the costs for each.

Brush Prairie construction costs, including fencing materials, were about \$12,000. Labor was volunteer, thanked those involved and asked for future help.

Introduced Riley Silberman, Boy Scout Troop 343, who built waste bins for Ross and Brush Prairie and thanked the Boy Scouts for their involvement.

Vancouver Lake - Mark discussed the proposed site with overhead graphics of the area, including location for SDA and parking. There will be no access to the water.

Other proposed sites are Fairgrounds, Washougal and Hockinson.

Finance

Lisa Erickson, using an overhead chart, reported Dogpaw is loosing money due to construction of Brush Prairie. We need more donations and membership fees. Cost to construct is about \$10,000 per park. Dogpaw does not have enough money at this time to construct 2 parks. Member, Jim Tiefenthaler asked how many paid members at this time. Response 820 paid members and \$18,000.00 in the checking account as of 12/30/08.

Dogpaw Q&A

Jean Hood said in the Dogpaw checking account there is between \$12,000-15,000 plus the Money Market fund of \$15,000.00. Lisa's name is not on the bank account, Lisa confirmed she does not want it to be. Member Jim Tiefenthaler asked about including financial statements in the monthly newsletter. Lisa and Kathleen agreed this could be done. Member Joan Caley suggested a member audit the account. Jean Hood stated any more questions should be put on a comment form. Member Arleen Chester asked if the board members could be introduced. Jean Hood did so and included a short bio for each board member.

Safety – Julie Mills and Megan-Kate Colwell, Vet and Trainer

Julie talked about the goals of the Safety Task Force, wanting to reduce risks in our parks. Uniform signs are being made for all the parks. A new brochure is also being made including instructions what to do in case of emergency. In addition a Incident Form is on the website. A member asked if a dog is injured can 911 be called. Julie responded to call your vet first and then take your dog to the vet. 911 will only respond to human injuries/endangerment. A class is being planned for members on how to have a safe visit to the park.

Megan Kate said there are plans for quarterly classes on dog park use. Set your dog up for success. First class will be 4/18/09 at 11:00 a.m., free for DP members on breed specific issues. Classes are for people only, no dogs. She wants to know members biggest concerns and help users to read what other dogs are saying. She also advised no food or treats in the parks. The issue of un-neutered males was brought up again and acknowledge cannot be enforced.

A member commented about the danger of dogs running loose in the Park & Ride at Ross. It was re-affirmed dogs should be leashed going in and out of the park. Member Cindy Franke said she needs Dogpaw information available other than on the website, perhaps at the kiosks. There was further discussion from the group about treats being allowed however users need to be aware of handing them out and should first ask owner if it is ok. Treats cannot be banned as some people use treats for training. Another reminder suggestion forms available at the table as you leave.

Parks and Recreation (VCPR) – Jane Tesner Kleiner, Planning & Development Mgr. VCPR is excited with the Dogpaw partnership. The (dog) parks take a group effort. They are proud of Pacific Park and how it serves families with other activities adjoining the dog area. It is a great community park. There is great concern with dogs off leash in the parking area. The city/county code calls for dogs to be leashed outside the OLP. She also commented the Fire Station in the SW corner of Pacific Park provides an element of security by its presence. She discussed ADA access and requirements at parks. She is excited to move forward with the Vancouver Lake OLP and recognized Clark Public Works for its involvement in the Brush Prairie Park. There was discussion about the location of Van Lake site and parking. The proposed site is currently being used as an “unofficial dog area”. There was further discussion about enforcing Dogpaw and County rules. She said Park rules, posted at all parks are part of County code and enforceable. Dogpaw rules, also posted in parks, are for education and etiquette not in the County code/rules thus not enforceable.

Canines for Clean Water – Cindy Stienbarger, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Public Works Clean Water Program. Seeking Pledges from people to pick up and dispose of dog waste in garbage. Hopes we will spread the word to pick up poop. Already has 86 pledges. Reminder that dog waste in your back yard doesn't just stay in your backyard. Runoff from yards go into storm drains leading to streams and creeks in Clark County.

Humane Society of Southwest Washington - Lisa Schmidt, for Chuck Tourtillot, Executive Director – Read how fleas in a box are conditioned to jump to a certain height. Discussed history of HSSW, 86% of dogs find homes, importance of off leash exercise. New HSSW facility will have twice the space of present facility, will include on site education center. She supports OL exercise and it is essential to support each other's missions. They want to increase adoptions. Her phone number is 360 635-7321 - wants to hear from us.

Clark County Animal Control – Officer Bill Burrus. talked about documenting incidents. civil infractions, difficult to control, needs to witness the incident, date and time of occurrence, what

happened, the people involved, give the facts, take photos if possible, vet report, car license, description of the animal and person along with age of owner/person. Cannot enforce unaltered males, not part of code. If a victim wants to press charges need sworn statement and willing to testify. Asked about fines – he said \$100.00 if dog is attacked, vicious, running at large dog can be \$50 -100 -250, all dependent upon the officer.

Vancouver Police Dept. K9 Unit – The meeting concluded with a visit from Sgt. Joe Graaff, 5 ½ yr. old police dog Kenai and his handler. Sgt. Graaff said there are 11 police dogs in the Vancouver/Clark County area. He cannot count the calls he gets inquiring about our Off Leash Dog Parks and thanked DP for the good work. He talked about canine policies, restraint and controls.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm (comment cards to follow shortly...)

Q & A

1. Incident report on kiosks.

ICE (In Case of Emergency) is included in our new brochure and info is posted at our kiosks.

2. Have an Animal Control person be at the park-n-ride area trails have lots of dogs.

We will continue to encourage Animal Control to patrol in and near our parks, but their department has experienced severe cutbacks.

3. Please explain the water situation at Ross. Maybe for the water at the parks we can harvest rain water.

We lost our water source when the tenants in the house by the water tanks vacated. We had an agreement with them to provide us water. We have tried but been able to reach a similar agreement(s) with BPA, the owner of the vacant house. At this time due to health and sanitation concerns we feel it best for park users to supply their own water. Additionally, we realize it is a thoughtful gesture to leave water jugs and bowls for other dogs; however, it is dangerous from a health standpoint and for the safety of other dogs. Please do not leave bowls/dishes and empty jugs. Disposal of empty plastic jugs is a big problem as well as sanitation and health concerns of empty bowls/containers. Please "Pack It In, Pack It Out". We did some research on harvesting rain water and decided not to pursue it. At this time due to health and sanitation concerns we feel it best for park users to supply their own water.

4. How about a 4th of July Parade for /with our dogs?

We have been in the Hazel Dell Parade before, and it went really well. It was organized by a group of members/volunteers, and they marched with the DOGPAW banner. If there is a group that would like to head this up, please contact Jean at jeanh@clarkdogpaw.org. One major concern on behalf of a summer time parade is the pads on a dogs paw are exposed to HOT pavement. This was an issue at the Hazel Dell Parade and it was in May, so we are not sure if a July parade with a lot of dogs is a good idea.

5. How are members notified of dues due?

Membership renewals are electronically sent out to email members when it is close to renewal time. Please make sure your membership profile is up to date and correct by visiting it online at www.clarkdogpaw.org/members/myprofile.php? Those members who do not have email access will get a USPS reminder when it is close to renewal time.

6. Finance: I would like to be on an audit committee. Consider a 3-member audit committee to review the books each yr and report at annual mtg. I know a CPA that might be willing to help with an audit, if you want to do one. Need financial statement or report put on website after each board meeting. This assumes that a financial report is made at each board meeting.

We are discussing whether or not to have an audit committee or to have a yearly audit done by a professional. If someone would like to volunteer to do an audit, please send their names to treasurer@clarkdogpaw.org. We already have yearly financials posted, but are now posting quarterly financials online at www.clarkdogpaw.org/publicdocs/documents.shtml.

7. I would love to help constructions and whatever you need help with.

A Vancouver Lk construction start date will be announced soon. Please, contact construction@clarkdogpaw.org about it.

8. We can help with photo editing.

Please contact kathleenh@clarkdogpaw.org with your ideas.

9. It would be a huge mistake for DOGPAW to get involved with enforcing or fining dog owners for violations - the best thing we could do if it's possible would be to help people license their dogs. Education & helping people should be our mission - NOT NEVER should we be involved in punishing people - it's not our job.

All of these topics are currently being discussed at STF meetings – please join us – contact safety@clarkdogpaw.org.

10. A SIGN? My biggest "pet peeve" people who put used grocery sacks in bag holders in kiosks that have holes in them. Who is going to use a bag to pick up poop that has a hole in it?? They are just putting their garbage at our parks.

We'll post a reminder to "have a bag, leave a bag, need a bag, take a bag". We think this is just an oversight, because some bags are donated from recycling and junk is often missed.

11. Consider more information provided in means additionally to electronic. More postings at the parks & possibly through media, such as local pet publications, etc.

Volunteers are needed for park managers at Brush Prairie and Dakota parks at this time. Bulletin board monitoring is part of the job description. General Meetings are posted in the Columbian. Media is notified of any events when it is pertinent. If you have additional ideas or comments regarding media, and advertising, please contact Jean at jeanh@clarkdogpaw.org.

12. Unattended dogs at Work Party.

This is in the rules (watch your dog). We also state "dogs not recommended" at work parties for this very reason.